

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /046 W

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P R 181422Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3226

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

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BLANTYRE FOR RLA CALDWELL

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ET

SUBJ: CELU DISAFFILIATES FROM ICFTU

1. ACCORDING ENA RELEASE FRONT-PAGED FEBRUARY 18 ETHIOPIAN
HERALD, CELU YESTERDAY DISAFFILIATED FROM ICFTU.

2. ACCORDING HERALD, CELU ISSUED STATEMENT WHICH SAID THAT
GROUPING WORKERS INTO DIFFERENT CAMPS CURTAILED RATHER THAN
ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL WORKER COOPERATION AND UNITY OF ACTION.
"WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO DISAFFILIATE FROM THE ICFTU IN THE
SPIRIT OF WORKERS INTERNATIONALISM AND AS A MANIFESTATION OF
OUR ENDEAVOR TO SEEK AN END TO THE DIVISION IN THE TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT." CELU STATEMENT REPORTEDLY RECALLED BENEFITS CONFEDERATION
HAD DERIVED FROM YEARS OF COOPERATION AND ASSOCIATION WITH ICFTU
AND ASSURED LATTER OF CELU'S CONTINUED COOPERATION "IN STRUGGLE
AGAINST APARTHEID COLONIALISM AND EXPLOITATION."

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING AALC SOURCE, CELU'S LETTER OF DISAFFILIATION
SUBSTANCE OF WHICH REPORTEDLY ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN STATEMENT
WAS DATED FEBRUARY 10 AND SIGNED BY ACTING FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
ALEM. SOURCE SAID THAT ICFTU MAN HERE ONLY LEARNED OF LETTER
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FROM ICFTU-BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 17, AS MATTER KEPT FROM HIM BY CELU

LEADERSHIP. AALC ESTIMATE IS THAT DISAFFILIATION DECISION
PROBABLY MADE BY ALEM AND ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY TESFA.
EMBASSY WOULD ADD THAT THEY PROBABLY RESPONSIVE TO PRESSURE
FROM DIRG RADICALS.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS01933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750057-0844
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabgrz.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CELU DISAFFILIATES FROM ICFTU
TAGS: ELAB, ET, ICFTU, CELU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006